

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04643 111032Z
ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: MILI, UN, US, CE, SCUL, PEPR

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF SOUTH LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM LEAD STORY OF AUGUST 10 AN NAHAR:

2. "GOL SOURCES SAID CABINET REVIEWED AUGUST 9 THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH AND THE OBSTACLES STILL OBSTRUCTING THE ADVANCE OF LEBANESE ARMY UNIT. FONMIN. BUTROS INFORMED CABINET ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE HE HAD RECEIVED FROM SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WHICH CLARIFIES ISRAEL'S POSITION REGARDING THE ENTRY OF LEBANESE ARMY INTO THE SOUTH AND THE TERMS UNDER WHICH ISRAEL WOULD ALLOW THE ARMY TO ADVANCE. THESE TERMS COULD BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- TO RESCIND DECISION TAKEN VIS-A-VIS MAJORS HADDAD AND SHIDIAC,

- CHOOSE ANOTHER ROUTE TO ENTER THE SOUTH, AND

- DEPART FROM KAWKABA AREA IN ORDER NOT TO SUBJECT THE ARMY UNIT

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04643 111032Z

TO SHELLING.

3. "SAME SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT SOME MINISTERS HAVE ASKED THE STATE AND GOVERNMENT TO PUBLICLY REVEAL THE TRUTH AND NAME THOSE WHO ARE OBSTRUCTING IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, TO RESORT TO PATIENCE AND DELIBERATION IN ORDER NOT TO LET LEBANON BE DRAGGED TO UNKNOWN FATE.

GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES HINTED THAT THE IMPRESSION WHICH HAD PREVAILED DURING WEDNESDAY CABINET MEETING WAS THAT U.S. AND UN HAD LET LEBANON DOWN. BOTH OF THEM HAD PUSHED LEBANON TO SEND THE ARMY SOUTH. BUT WHEN THE OPERATION FACED ISRAELI AND OTHER OBSTACLES, BOTH U.S. AND UN REFRAINED FROM EXERTING EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. U.S. AND UN THEN REITERATED USUAL DIPLOMATIC ADVICE BY SAYING 'BE PATIENT.'

4. GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES ADDED THAT CABINET, AFTER DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH AND REVIEWING THE OUTCOME OF DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS IN LIGHT OF U.S. POSITION, DECIDED:

A. NOT TO RESCIND DECISION TAKEN BY ARMY COMMAND TO RECALL BORDER COMMANDERS TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

B. TO INSTRUCT LEBANESE DIPLOMATS ABROAD TO INCREASE ACTIVITIES AND EXPLAIN THE REAL SITUATION IN ORDER TO GET FINAL AND CLEAR ANSWERS.

C. NOT TO RESCIND DECISION OF SENDING ARMY TO SOUTH AND TO SEEK ALL MEANS WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE THE ADVANCE OF THE ARMY UNIT CURRENTLY AT KAWKABA TO ITS DESTINATION. AS FOR ISRAELI TERMS, GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT THE CABINET HAS REJECTED THEM, IN PRINCIPLE, AND THAT THIS REJECTION WAS CONVEYED TO U.S. THROUGH AMBASSADOR PARKER."

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04643 111032Z

5. NEWS ANALYSIS IN LEFTIST DAILY AL-LIWA AUGUST 10 STRESSED "DISAPPOINTMENT WITH U.S. POSITIONS TOWARD LEBANON." IT EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT "U.S. IS GODFATHER OF MIDEAST CRISIS AND HAS INTEREST IN KEEPING LEBANESE SITUATION BOILING...U.S. IS AVOIDING A MAJOR MIDEAST WAR THROUGH A MINI-WAR GAME IN LEBANESE ARENA. THE PERSISTENT OFFICIAL DEMAND CONVEYED TO LEBANON'S 'FRIEND' AMBASSADOR PARKER IS THAT AMERICA SHOULD HELP LEBANON SEPARATE MIDEAST CRISIS FROM LEBANON'S CRISIS -- OR AT LEAST, AS OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS MODESTLY ASKED PARKER, U.S. ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SERIOUSLY SEEK THE FREEZING OF LEBANON'S CRISIS WITHIN ITS BORDERS UNTIL MIDEAST MATTERS ARE SETTLED."

6. THE LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, IN A STATEMENT REPORTED BY LOCAL MEDIA AUGUST 10 (ACCUSING LEBANESE FRONT OF WORKING TO RENEW CIVIL WAR), CITED AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT "AMERICAN DECLARATIONS OF LAST FEW DAYS DISCLOSED TRUTH ABOUT AMERICAN ROLE. THEY UNCOVERED FALLACY OF GOL'S DEPENDENCE ON U.S. GUARANTEES IN SOFTENING ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. AMERICAN CIRCLES -- PARTICULARLY AMBASSADOR PARKER'S CIRCLES IN BEIRUT -- IN ANNOUNCING THEIR FAILURE TO CONVINCE ISRAEL TO ADJUST ITS TERMS IN EFFECT SIGNALLED AMERICA'S SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE ZIONIST-ISOLATIONIST ALLIANCE TO IMPLEMENT SCHEMES TO CONTROL

SOUTH LEBANON."

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